



**J. H. D., of N. Y.**—Finely-powdered plaster-of-paris made into a thin cement with water, we have been told, answers well for uniting broken pieces of meerschaum. Liquid quartz will answer the same purpose.

**S. W. T., of N. J.**—In a general sense, combustible substances are those which burn freely in the atmosphere, but in a chemical sense, this definition is too restricted. Iron and zinc burn freely in pure oxygen gas.

**W. F. W., of Pa.**—It depends altogether on the terms of the patent whether the patentee can substitute a different material, and still claim to work under the patent.

**P. D. of Vt.**—The benefit of a re-issue will extend to past assignees. They can, however, if they prefer it, adhere to the original patent. It is not necessary that all should join in the application for re-issue, though it is usually better for them to do so.

**F. A. M., of N. Y.**—The *Monitor* class of vessels were not designed for speed, but merely for floating batteries. It would be wrong to blame them for want of speed, when they were not designed with respect to this quality. We shall give your article on storms attention. The theory appears to be similar to that of Mr. Redfield, who believed that most of our storms were rotary.

### Money Received

At the Scientific American Office on account of Patent Office business, from Wednesday, December 10, to Wednesday, December 17, 1882:—

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